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General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-eighth session
Vienna, 12-23 February 2001
Agenda item 5
United Nations Programme on Space Applications following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

Proposed work plan for follow-up initiatives of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

March-May 2001 — Survey to be conducted among Member States on the level of priority of the UNISPACE III recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development and on the interest in participating in action groups:

(a) Circulation of the survey;

(b) Compilation of the survey replies by the Office for Outer Space Affairs (to be issued in time for the forty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in 2001).

June 2001 — Forty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space:

(a) Informal consultations to be held by the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee with the aim of identifying leaders and members for various action groups;

(b) Provisional agreement on priorities;

(c) Provisional agreement on the overall work plan and schedules for reporting to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee;

(d) Status report to be presented to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

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February 2002	Thirty-ninth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee:
	(a) Report to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the overall progress made on the UNISPACE III follow-up initiatives;
	(b) Formal approval of action groups addressing each recommendation, priorities and the overall work plan;
	(c) Report on work plans for each recommendation;
	(d) Status report on each recommendation under active development;
	(e) Identification of gaps and overlaps and recommendations on solutions.
June 2002	Forty-fifth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space:
	Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the overall progress made on the UNISPACE III follow-up initiatives.
February 2003	Fortieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee:
	(a) Substantive reports on results of priority initiatives;
	(b) Commencement of activity on second-priority items.

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7 December 2001

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-ninth session
Vienna, 25 February-8 March 2002

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities.
4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications.
5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).
6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment.
7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.
8. Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system.
9. Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system.
10. Space debris.
11. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.

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12. International cooperation in limiting obtrusive space advertising that could interfere with astronomical observations.

13. Mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications.

14. Draft provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

15. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Annotations*

2. Statement by the Chairman

Following the adoption of the agenda, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that have taken place since its thirty-eighth session. After the Chairman's statement, the Subcommittee will organize its schedule of work.

3. General exchange of views and introduction to reports submitted on national activities

The annual reports submitted by Member States on their space activities will be made available to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/778).

4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications

In paragraph 19 of its resolution 56/61 of 10 December 2001, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

The views of the Subcommittee regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, including activities for the period 2000-2002, are set out in the report of its thirty-eighth session (A/AC.105/761, paras. 30-44). The views of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space are set out in the report on its forty-fourth session.[1] In paragraph 22 of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 2002, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (see A/AC.105/750, sects. II-IV).

The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert covering the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications during 2001 and 2002, as well as a listing of States contributing to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/773).

The Subcommittee will also have before it the following reports on training courses, symposia and workshops held in 2001 under the auspices of the Programme:

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* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Subcommittee.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/56/20 and Corr.1), paras. 68-84.

(a) Report on the United Nations/European Space Agency/Committee on Space Research Workshop on Data Analysis and Image-Processing Techniques, held in Damascus from 25 to 29 March 2001 (A/AC.105/765 and Corr.1);

(b) Report on the Eleventh United Nations International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held in Stockholm and Kiruna, Sweden, from 2 May to 9 June 2001 (A/AC.105/767);

(c) Report on the Tenth United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Basic Space Science, held in Reduit, Mauritius, from 25 to 29 June 2001 (A/AC.105/766);

(d) Report on the United Nations/United States of America Workshop on the Use of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Kuala Lumpur from 20 to 24 August 2001 (A/AC.105/771);

(e) Report on the Second United Nations/Austria/European Space Agency Symposium on Enhancing the Participation of Youth in Space Activities, held in Graz, Austria, from 17 to 20 September 2001 (A/AC.105/774);

(f) Report on the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Making Space Applications Operational: Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainable Development, held in Albi, France, from 27 to 29 September 2001 (A/AC.105/775);

(g) Report on the United Nations/International Academy of Astronautics Workshop on Small Satellites at the Service of Developing Countries: the African Perspective, held in Toulouse, France, on 2 October 2001 (A/AC.105/772);

(h) Report on the Second United Nations/United States of America Regional Workshop on the Use of Global Navigation Satellite Systems, held in Vienna from 26 to 30 November 2001 (A/AC.105/776).

5. Implementation of the recommendation of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

In paragraph 19 of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene the Working Group of the Whole to consider implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

In paragraph 27 of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction that the Committee, at its forty-fourth session, established action teams under the voluntary leadership of Member States to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III, which had been assigned highest priority by Member States and for which Member States had offered to lead activities, and that those action teams would report on the work conducted and submit work plans to the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session for approval.[2] Reports submitted by action teams will be made available to the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.1/L.254).

At its forty-fourth session, the Committee requested the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat to conduct a questionnaire survey among intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with observer status with

[2] Ibid., paras. 50-62.

the Committee in order to identify the recommendations for which they wished to become members of action teams.[3] The results of the survey will be before the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.1/L.255).

6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellite, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment

In paragraph 15 (a) of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item at its thirty-ninth session.

7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

In paragraph 15 (b) of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix). In paragraph 20 of its resolution 56/61, the Assembly agreed that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. According to the work plan, at the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee, the Working Group should prepare a report that provides information to the Subcommittee on international technical standards pertinent to the use of nuclear power sources.

8. Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within and among entities of the United Nations system

In paragraph 15 (b) of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 40). According to the work plan, the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session should identify the barriers to greater use of space applications and services within the United Nations system and examine specific means and mechanisms to eliminate those barriers.

The twenty-second session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities will be hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 23 to 25 January 2002. The report of the Inter-Agency Meeting (A/AC.105/779), as well as the report of the Secretary-General on coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 2002 and 2003 and future years (A/AC.105/780), will be made available to the Subcommittee.

9. Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system

In paragraph 15 (b) of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh

[3] Ibid., para. 61.

session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 41). According to the work plan, the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session should review existing and proposed satellite and data distribution systems that can be used operationally for disaster management and should identify gaps in those systems. The review could also extend to pilot projects undertaken by various space agencies, international organizations and Governments through technical presentations, and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and others could be invited to make presentations on their efforts and studies. Pursuant to the Committee's recommendation at its forty-fourth session,[4] communications satellite operators were invited to give presentations on the disaster management component of their activities.

10. Space debris

In paragraph 15 (b) of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session (A/AC.105/761, para. 130). According to the work plan, the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session should discuss space debris impact hazards and shielding. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session, the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) has been invited to make a presentation on its work.

Pursuant to paragraph 34 of General Assembly resolution 56/61, the Subcommittee will have before it a note by the Secretariat on national research on space debris, the safety of space objects with nuclear power sources on board and problems relating to their collision with space debris (A/AC.105/770), containing information received by the Secretariat from Member States and international organizations.

11. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

In paragraph 15 (c) of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Subcommittee at its thirty-eighth session (A/AC.105/761, para. 141), the International Telecommunication Union, the International Astronomical Union and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development were invited to give presentations on the status of their work on frequency interference with radio astronomy.

12. International cooperation in limiting obtrusive space advertising that could interfere with astronomical observations

In paragraph 15 (c) of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion.

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[4] Ibid., para. 117.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Subcommittee agreed that space-related scientific organizations such as the International Astronomical Union should be invited to conduct a background study on the subject and present the results to the Subcommittee to facilitate its work (A/AC.105/761, annex II, para. 19). A background paper by the International Astronomical Union on obtrusive space advertising and astronomical research (A/AC.105/777) will be before the Subcommittee.

13. Mobilization of financial resources to develop capacity in space science and technology applications

In paragraph 15 (c) of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee consider this item as a single issue and item for discussion.

At its thirty-eighth session, the Subcommittee agreed that the results of the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Making Space Applications Operational, held in Albi, France, from 27 to 29 September 2001, should be reported to the Subcommittee in connection with this agenda item. The report of the Workshop (A/AC.105/775) will be before the Subcommittee. As part of the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole concerning the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/761, annex II, para. 20), which were endorsed by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/761, para. 153), funding institutions participating in the Workshop have been invited to make presentations to the Subcommittee.

14. Draft provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

In paragraph 16 of its resolution 56/61, the General Assembly noted that the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session would submit its proposal to the Committee for a draft provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Subcommittee, in 2003. In accordance with an agreement reached by the Committee at its forty-second session, discussion under this item should include identification of subjects to be dealt with as single issues and items for discussion or under multi-year work plans, based primarily on the results of UNISPACE III.[5] Pursuant to paragraph 19 of resolution 56/61, this item will be considered by the Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened at the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee.

Symposia to be held during the thirty-ninth session of the Subcommittee

Pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 56/61, a symposium on remote sensing for substantive water management in arid and semi-arid areas, organized by the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, will be held on the afternoons of 25 and 26 February 2002.

Pursuant to paragraph 18 of resolution 56/61, an industry symposium focusing on the promising area of very-high-resolution remote sensing and its impact on

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), annex I, sect. A.

operational applications and discussing the new space market situation will be held on 4 March 2002.

Other reports

The following reports will also be before the Subcommittee at its thirty-ninth session:

(a) *Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications* (ST/SPACE/7), a compilation of selected papers presented during activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications in 2001;

(b) *Highlights in Space: Progress in Space Science, Technology and Applications, International Cooperation and Space Law, 2001* (ST/SPACE/8), consisting of reports prepared by the Committee on Space Research, the International Astronautical Federation and the International Institute of Space Law.

Annex

Indicative schedule of work[a]

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Week of 25 February-1 March 2002		
Monday, 25 February	Item 1. Adoption of the agenda Item 2. Statement by the Chairman Item 3. General exchange of views Item 7. Nuclear power sources[b]	Item 3. General exchange of views Symposium on remote sensing for substantive water management in arid and semi-arid areas
Tuesday, 26 February	Item 3. General exchange of views Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[c] Item 5. UNISPACE III[c]	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[c] Symposium on remote sensing for substantive water management in arid and semi-arid areas
Wednesday, 27 February	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[c] Item 5. UNISPACE III[c] Item 6. Remote sensing	Item 5. UNISPACE III[c] Item 6. Remote sensing Item 7. Nuclear power sources[b]
Thursday, 28 February	Item 5. UNISPACE III[c] Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation Item 9. Disaster management	Item 5. UNISPACE III[c] Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation Item 9. Disaster management
Friday, 1 March	Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation Item 9. Disaster management Item 11. Geostationary orbit	Item 8. Inter-agency cooperation Item 9. Disaster management Item 11. Geostationary orbit
Week of 4-8 March 2002		
Monday, 4 March	Item 10. Space debris Symposium on very-high-resolution remote sensing	Item 10. Space debris Symposium on very-high-resolution remote sensing
Tuesday, 5 March	Item 10. Space debris Item 12. Space advertising Item 13. Mobilization of financial resources	Item 10. Space debris Item 12. Space advertising Item 13. Mobilization of financial resources
Wednesday, 6 March	Item 7. Nuclear power sources[b] Item 13. Mobilization of financial resources	Item 7. Nuclear power sources[b] Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Subcommittee[c]

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Thursday, 7 March	Item 7. Nuclear power sources[b] Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Subcommittee[c]	Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications[c] Item 5. UNISPACE III[c] Item 14. Draft provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Subcommittee[c] Item 15. Report to the Committee
Friday, 8 March	Item 15. Report to the Committee	Item 15. Report to the Committee

[a] At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agreed that Member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), paras. 168 and 169 (b)).

[b] The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, to be reconvened in accordance with paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 56/61, will meet in parallel with plenary sessions of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of item 7 on Thursday, 7 March, in order to discuss the report of the Working Group.

[c] The Working Group of the Whole, to be reconvened pursuant to paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 56/61, will meet during the time allocated for the consideration of items 4, 5 and 14. The Subcommittee will resume its consideration of items 4, 5 and 14 on Thursday, 7 March, in order to adopt the report of the Working Group.